IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-8 (Canceled).

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A novel olefin mixture preparable by ~~process~~ the following steps ~~a), b) and c) of the process of claim 1~~,

subjecting a C_4-olefin mixture to metathesis,

separating off olefins having from 5 to 8 carbon atoms from the metathesis mixture,

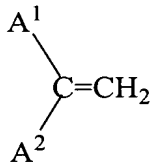
subjecting the separated-off olefins individually or as a mixture to dimerization to give olefin mixtures having from 10 to 16 carbon atoms,

wherein

a) the components have from 10 to 16 carbon atoms

b) the proportion of unbranched olefins is less than 25% by weight

c) the proportion of components having a structural element of the formula I (vinylidene group)



(I)

wherein A1 and A2 represent aliphatic hydrocarbon groups, is below 10 by weight

Claim 10 (Original): An olefin mixture as claimed in claim 9, which has a proportion of unbranched olefins of less than 20% by weight.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): An olefin mixture as claimed in ~~one of claims 9 and 10~~ claim 9, wherein at least 80% of the components of the dimerization mixture have, in the range from 1/4 to 3/4, ~~preferably from 1/3 to 2/3,~~ of the chain length of their main chain, one branch, or two branches to adjacent carbon atoms.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): An olefin mixture as claimed in ~~one of claims 9 to 11~~ claim 9, wherein, at the branching sites of the main chain, predominantly groups having (y-4) and (y-5) carbon atoms are bonded, where y is the number of carbon atoms in the monomer used for the dimerization.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): An olefin mixture as claimed in ~~one of claims 9 to 12~~ claim 9, wherein the ratio of aliphatic to olefinic hydrogen atoms is in the range

$H_{aliph.} : H_{olefin.} = (2*n-0.5) : 0.5$ to $(2*n-1.9) : 1.9$, where n is the number of carbon atoms in the olefin obtained in the dimerization.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): An olefin mixture as claimed in ~~one of claims 9 to 13~~ claim 9, wherein the ratio of aliphatic to olefinic hydrogen atoms is in the range

$H_{aliph.} : H_{olefin.} = (2*n-1.0) : 1$ to $(2*n-1.6) : 1.6$.

Claims 15- 20 (Cancelled).

Claim 21 (New): A novel surfactant alcohol obtainable by the following steps

subjecting a C_4-olefin mixture to metathesis;

separating off olefins having from 5 to 8 carbon atoms from the metathesis mixture;

subjecting the separated-off olefins individually or as a mixture to dimerization to give olefin mixtures having from 10 to 16 carbon atoms;

subjecting the resulting olefin mixture, optionally after fractionation, to derivatization to give a mixture of surfactant alcohols; and optionally

alkoxylating the surfactant alcohols; wherein the novel surfactant

a) has 11 to 17 carbon atoms and

b) comprises a proportion of unbranched alcohols of below 25 % by weight, and its alkoxylation products.

Claim 22 (New): A method of altering surface tension of liquids by adding the nonionic surfactant alcohol alkoxylation products of claim 21.

Claim 23 (New): A method for the preparation of surfactants comprising chemically modifying the surfactant alcohol of claim 21.

Claim 24 (New): A method according to claim 17 comprising single or multiple reaction (glycosylation, polyglycosylation) of said surfactant alcohol with mono-, di- or polysaccharides with the exclusion of water and with acid catalysis or with O-acetylsaccharide halides.

Claim 25 (New): A method according to claim 23, comprising:

esterification of said surfactant alcohol with sulfuric acid or sulfuric acid derivatives to give acidic alkyl sulfates or alkyl ether sulfates.

Claim 26 (New): A method according to claim 23, comprising esterification of said surfactant alcohol with phosphoric acid or its derivatives to give acidic alkyl phosphates or alkyl ether phosphates.

Claim 27 (New): An olefin mixture as claimed in claim 9, wherein at least 80% of the components of the dimerization mixture have, in the range from 1/3 to 2/3, of the chain length of their main chain, one branch, or two branches to adjacent carbon atoms.